

# MEMO

**DATE:** February 16, 2006  
**TO:** Regional Comprehensive Plan Task Force  
**FROM:** Alan Thompson, Senior Regional Planner (213) 236-1940  
**SUBJECT:** Security and emergency Preparedness Chapter Update

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## **SUMMARY:**

The Security Chapter of the Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP) is being developed concurrently with the Regional Transportation Plan, which has an expanded security component. This chapter will contain activities intended to implement regional goals and policies related to transportation security. This item is intended to promote discussion of goals and measurable outcomes for the security chapter and to update the committee on Security procedures and issues.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The Regional Council approved an expanded approach for the Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP) process that would require the addition of measurable plan outcomes to each chapter. The purpose of the inclusion of outcomes is to provide a basis for plan accountability and monitoring going forward.

Previously, the RCP Task Force directed staff to review the mandated roles and responsibilities of federal, state and local governments in planning for and responding to security and emergency response and to examine where SCAG can augment federal, state and local governments. Staff's initial review indicates that California law provides a comprehensive listing of responsibilities for state and local in planning/response and will be presented at the meeting. This review, when fully completed will be the focus of the chapter.

For purposes of this discussion, staff has presented two areas of potential plan outcomes, the first being actual plan performance, and the second being process outcomes. The purposes of this discussion for the Task Force are to gauge the acceptability of these outcomes and to seek ideas and input for other potential outcomes.

Also, SCAG, in its role as a transportation planning agency, is required to look at security for both motorized and non-motorized travelers as required by SAFETEA-LU.

## **Performance Outcomes**

The State of California, in conjunction with each county, has a detailed emergency and disaster preparation program grounded in state law. The goal for SCAG is to determine what role(s) it can play, as a regional transportation planning agency that will augment existing mandated programs.

Performance measures listed in the 2004 RTP provide an indication on outcome measures. Currently there are no RTP security goals or performance measures. In the context of this discussion, the goal is to minimize the impacts of man-made or natural disasters/emergencies by incorporating security and emergency preparedness into transportation planning.

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There are two potential types of outcomes, performance and process. Performance outcomes indicate a quantitative, measurable change over the current status quo. Potential performance outcomes (within the scope of SCAG's role as a transportation planning agency), could include:

- Increasing the numbers of traffic signals that automatically change to allow rapid throughput of emergency/police vehicles.
- Develop, in cooperation with county and local governments, methods for increasing evacuation capacities and speeds.
- Develop, in cooperation with Federal, state and local agencies, self sufficiency guides for households and local governments.

Process outcomes indicate more of a political outcome designed to facilitate a policy goal. An example for this may be:

- Increase the percentage of cities that update their emergency procedures within the last five years, or
- Increase the number of cities that hold disaster drills at least once every 3-5 years with neighboring cities/communities.

## **Future Activities**

Staff has already reviewed applicable federal and state regulations as they pertain to the roles and responsibilities for security and emergency preparedness. The next step is to interview representatives from the California Office of Emergency Services, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and county Emergency management bureaus, and to examine how SCAG can provide benefit to their mandated roles.

The chapter will focus on:

- Federal Policies
- State Policies
- Mandated Roles of the various federal, state and local organizations
- SCAG's role as a Transportation Planning Agency, as it relates to Security and Emergency Response
- Policy Recommendations
  - Recommended Performance Outcomes
  - Recommended Process Outcomes.